



Weston Solutions, Inc.  
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1210  
Chicago, IL 60606-2901  
312-424-3300 • Fax 312-424-3330  
www.westonsolutions.com

February 14, 2014

Ms. Sonia R. Vega  
On-Scene Coordinator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**Subject: Emergency Response – CP Oil Spill Winona MN**  
**Winona, Winona County, Minnesota**  
**Contract No.: EP-S5-06-04**  
**Technical Direction Document No.: S05-0001-1402-003**  
**Document Control No.: 2296-2A-**  
**Work Order No.: 20405.012.001.2296.00**

Dear Ms. Vega:

Under Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. S05-0001-1402-003, the United States Environmental Protection Agency tasked the Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®), Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to provide oversight activities during an emergency response (ER) at the Winona Crude Oil Spill site in Winona, Winona County, Minnesota (the Site).

This document discusses the Site description, Site history, and presents a summary of the ER activities. In addition, this document has two attachments. **Attachment A** provides a photographic log of Site conditions and ER activities.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Site is located along the Canadian Pacific rail line, initially reported at mile post (MP) 372.6 near Winona, Winona County, Minnesota. The spill is believed to have impacted approximately 70 miles of the rail line, from southern Goodhue County continuing into Winona County. This portion of the rail line runs parallel to the Mississippi River, off its southern bank. The distance from the rail line to the river in this area varies between approximately a quarter to half mile. The Site encompasses residential, rural, and natural river floodplain areas. Located within this section of the rail line is the City of Winona with residential properties located approximately 100 feet north and south of the tracks as they run through the downtown area.

### **SITE HISTORY**

On February 5, 2014, a private citizen reported to the National Response Center (NRC) that spilled oil was observed on the railroad track at several street crossings in downtown Winona, Minnesota. The railroad was notified and the train was stopped southeast of the City of Winona. The cause of the spill was determined to be equipment failure of a valve on one of the tank cars.



Ms. Sonia R. Vega  
EPA

-2-

ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN  
February 14, 2014

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) responded to the spill and the quantity of oil released was estimated at 225 barrels (approximately 12,000 gallons) over a distance of approximately 70 miles of rail line.

Canadian Pacific, the owner of the railroad line, is the potentially responsible party (PRP) and assumed responsibility for mitigation of the incident. Canadian Pacific contracted Hulcher Services, Inc. (Hulcher), to conduct collection of spilled oil and contaminated ice, snow, and ballast.

On February 13, 2014, the EPA requested WESTON START to mobilize to the Site to conduct site documentation and oversight of PRP and PRP contractor activities.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

A chronology of Site activities is presented below.

#### **February 13, 2014**

- 0900 - EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Sonia Vega, WESTON START member Jeff Bryniarski, and MPCA representative David Morrison arrived at the Huff Street rail crossing in downtown Winona to document site conditions. Already on Site was Hulcher, conducting collection of oil and contaminated ice, snow, and ballast as requested by the PRP. They began work on the rails at Huff Street working down the rail line in a northwest direction.
- 0935 - EPA, WESTON START, and MPCA toured the street crossing at Hamilton Street in downtown Winona and observed very little spilled oil.
- 0940 - EPA, WESTON START, and MPCA toured the street crossing at Mankato Avenue in downtown Winona and observed spilled oil between the rails on ice, snow, ballast, and rail ties.
- 1010 - EPA, WESTON START, and MPCA collected a small quantity of impacted snow to be thawed to better observe the weathered oil at a pedestrian crossing near Chatfield Street. EPA and MPCA each retained samples for further investigation.
- 1030 - EPA, WESTON START, and MPCA observed spilled oil between the rails on ice, snow, ballast, and rail ties on a rail bridge over the Mississippi River floodplain. The bridge was located adjacent to Highway 14 between mile markers 23 and 24.
- 1130 - EPA and WESTON START toured the street crossing at Sioux Street. The PRP Contractor, Hulcher, utilized an excavator and vacuum truck to collect oil and contaminated ice, snow, and ballast material.
- 1200 - EPA and WESTON START depart the site.



Ms. Sonia R. Vega  
EPA

-3-

ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN  
February 14, 2014

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please contact me at (312) 424-3307.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Bryniarski".

Jeff Bryniarski  
WESTON START Associate Engineer  
Weston Solutions, Inc.

Attachments:  
A – Photographic Log

cc: WESTON START DCN File

---

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG**

---



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 1

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Southeast

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Oil-impacted street crossing in Winona at Hamilton Street.



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 2

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Northwest

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** PRP Contractors conducting collection of oil and contaminated ice, snow, and ballast near Huff Street in Winona.





**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 3

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Down

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Oil-impacted rail ties in Winona near Huff Street.



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 4

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Down

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Oil-impacted area between rails in Winona near Huff Street.



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 5

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Southeast

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** EPA and MPCA observe oil-impacted area between rails in Winona near Mankato Avenue.



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 6

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Down

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Weathered oil observed at a pedestrian crossing near Chatfield Street in Winona.





**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 7

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Northwest

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Rail bridge over the Mississippi River floodplain located adjacent to Highway 14 between mile markers 23 and 24, approximately five miles southeast of Winona.



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 8

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Down

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Rail bridge footing and ballast leading to flood plain, approximately five miles southeast of Winona.





**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 9

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Southeast

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** Weathered oil on snow trapped between replacement rails near bridge, approximately five miles southeast of Winona.



**Site:** ER - CP Oil Spill Winona MN

**Photograph No.:** 10

**Date:** 2/13/14

**Direction:** Southeast

**Photographer:** Jeff Bryniarski

**Subject:** PRP Contractors conducting collection of oil and contaminated ice, snow, and ballast near Sioux Street in Winona.